Corrrections Canines Drug Detection Program

527.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The canine program aids staff in locating contraband and maintaining the security of this facility. This policy outlines requirements of the program, its staff and the expectations of the Department.

527.2 POLICY

The Thurston County Corrections Facility is committed to ensuring its facilities are free from illicit drugs and to maintaining facility security. This is done by employing handler trained canine teams to assist in the search of individuals, buildings, vehicles, and property for detection of illicit drugs in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and department policies and procedures.

527.3 GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CANINES

Canines may be used to assist staff in conducting searches for contraband. At no time may a canine be used to demean, punish or psychologically torment other persons. It is the policy of TCCF that the canine will be controlled, on leash at all times in and out of the facility. Exceptions are to be made for active searches and when bystanders are not present. The handler will ensure that other members of the agency do not socially interact with the canine. Examples: Members should not pet, play with or feed the agency canine.

Canines may be used for:

- Incidental assistance of defendant searches.
- Searching defendants housing units, including cell and property,
- Canines may not be used to search an individual during a strip search or body cavity search.
- When possible and practical, cell searches will be done with a second employee present.
- Facility and campus searches,
- Searching unoccupied intake/booking areas.
- Searching unoccupied transportation vehicles before and after use.
- Any other search-related use authorized by a supervisor.

A canine team shall only be used to perform tasks for which it has been trained or certified

527.4 SEARCHING, EVIDENCE, CONTRABAND PROCESSING AND DOCUMENTATION

Cell Searches:

- Immediately before a planned search, shift supervisor may be requested to assist in coordinating defendant movement and supervision. defendants in the area, if possible should not be able to observe the canine during the search.

Before the search begins, the following should occur:

- Ventilation fans, heaters, ect will be turned of if possible and practical,

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- Lockers will be open and unlocked if possible.
- The canine handler will notify the shift supervisor of any alert and/or contraband found during the search.

Vehicle Searches:

- A canine team may be used to search a county vehicle before, during and after used to transport defendants.
- During a canine assisted vehicle search, occupants will be instructed to follow the direction of the canine handler. Non county vehicles will only be searched with the approval of the On Duty Supervisor.
- The canine handler will notify the shift supervisor of any alert and/or contraband found during the search.

Personal Searches:

- o Only trained and certified handlers and canines will be authorized to perform personal
  searches.
- An alert by a canine certified in the detection of narcotics and contraband is enough for reasonable suspicion for further search.
- The canine handler shall submit a incident report if the canine displays aggressive tendencies or makes aggressive, physical contact with any individual.

Illicit drug Processing and Documentation:

- Confiscated suspected drugs or, unauthorized property will be documented and processed by
  the handler when possible and practical, or by the assisting employee.
- The chain of evidence must be maintained on all contraband.
- Local Law Enforcement will be notified of any suspected misdemeanor/felony violations by the shift supervisor.
- Upon completion of the search, the canine handler will relay all relevant information to the shift supervisor and will complete all reports pertaining to the search.
- Extreme caution will be used when handling suspected contraband. All personal protection equipment will be used.

If any item(s) is confiscated during a canine search, the handler will complete a inventory on seized items and secure any and all items in a weapons storage until items are requested by Law Enforcement or the On Duty Supervisor

527.5 REPORTING CANINE USE, BITES AND INJURIES

Whenever the canine is conducting a search, a canine use report shall be completed by the handler and routed to the Programs Lieutenant and the On Duty Supervisor.

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Whenever the use of the canine results in a bite or any injury, a canine use report shall be completed and included with any related incident report. The injured party should receive required medical attention as soon as possible. Photographs should be taken of the bite or injury as soon as practicable after tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. Photographs shall be retained with the canine use report until the potential need for use in any related civil proceeding has expired. If a subject alleges an injury that is not visible, a supervisor shall be notified and the location of the alleged injury should be photographed as described above.

527.6 SELECTING AND TRAINING CANINES

A supervisor and an outside subject matter expert (in canine programs) shall select any canine to be used in the canine program. They shall consider the prospective canine's ability to detect contraband and its ability to work effectively in a custody environment.

527.6.1 TRAINING

Before assignment in this facility, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet the adopted standards established by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) (WAC 139-05-915). The Programs Lieutenant or the authorized designee shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training as recommended by the certification standards adopted by the recognized canine association for all custody personnel. This shall be done to familiarize custody personnel with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department canines.

CONTINUED TRAINING:

Each canine team shall be recertified to current CJTC standards. A canine team's certification will automatically expire if the handler and canine originally paired at the time of certification are no longer working together or if the function for which the team was certified changes (WAC 139-05-915). Additional training considerations are as follows:

(a) Canine teams shall receive training as defined in the current contract with the Department's canine training provider.

(b) Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with the approval of the canine program Lieutenant.

(c) To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer, or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is contrary to the policies of the Thurston County Corrections Facility.

(d) All canine training shall be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the canine program Lieutenant.

527.7 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING

Any canine team failing certification shall not be deployed in this facility until certification is achieved. Any canine team failing recertification shall be immediately removed from service. When practicable, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to other duties

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527.8 SELECTION AND TRAINING FOR CANINE HANDLERS

The position of canine handler is a special assignment that requires a specific set of skills, experience, training and temperament, in addition to those of a line staff member. A canine handler shall:

(a) Have completed the basic corrections officer academy.
(b) Have achieved performance evaluations of satisfactory or better.
(c) Have demonstrated ability to communicate well with inmates.
(d) Have demonstrated ability to perform ancillary tasks with minimum supervision.
(e) Reside in an adequately fenced, single-family residence (Residence will be inspected and qualified by a canine supervisor or designee).
(f) Live within 25 miles of the Thurston County Line.
(g) Agree to be assigned to the position for a minimum of three to a max of five years.

The canine handler shall be chosen from applicants via an oral board. If possible, the oral board shall comprise one person who is a member of an outside organization that has a canine program and two members who shall be chosen by the Chief Deputy Of Corrections or designee.

The canine handler shall receive all necessary training with his/her canine before being utilized in this facility. All training records for canine handlers will be maintained in the handlers training file.

527.9 MEDICAL CARE OF THE CANINE

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency as provided in this policy.

527.9.1 NON_EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE:

Non-emergency medical care will be coordinated through the canine program supervisor. Any indication that a canine is not in good physical condition shall be reported to the canine program supervisor as soon as practicable. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine handler's personnel file.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE:

The handler shall notify the canine program supervisor as soon as reasonably practicable when emergency medical care for the canine is required. Depending on the severity of the injury or illness, the canine shall either be treated by the designated veterinarian or transported to a designated emergency medical facility for treatment. If the handler and dog are out of the area, the handler may use the nearest available veterinarian.

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527.10 CARE FOR THE CANINE AND EQUIPMENT

The canine handler shall be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, attention and living conditions. In addition, the handler will be responsible for:

(a) Ensuring the canine is not exposed to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm, unless required by a particular application.
(b) Maintaining all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition.
(c) Permitting the canine program supervisor to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of any area of the residence that is used for the canine.
(d) Reporting any changes in the living status of the handler that may affect the lodging or environment of the canine to the handler's supervisor as soon as possible.
(e) Keeping the canine in a kennel provided by the Department when off-duty and at the home of the handler. When a canine is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured with a lock. When off-duty, the canine may be let out of the kennel while
under the direct control of the handler.
(f) Permitting the canine to socialize in the home with the handler's family under the direct supervision of the handler.
(g) Ensuring that under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the canine program supervisor.
(h) Involving his/her canine in any activity or conduct when off-duty only with approval in advance by the canine program supervisor.
(i) Notifying the canine program supervisor whenever the canine handler anticipates taking a vacation or an extended number of days off and it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to his/her supervisor so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
(j) Maintaining a daily record that contains the training, care of the dog and significant events, such as public appearances, and when the canine is utilized for searches.

527.11 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS

Controlled substance training aids are required to effectively train and maintain drug-detecting dogs. Further, controlled substances can be an effective training aid during training sessions for facility personnel and the public. Only approved training aids provided by the canine program supervisor may be used to train the dog. The canine handler shall maintain accurate records of controlled substances provided for training purposes and shall promptly report any loss or destruction of controlled substance training aids to the canine program supervisor. When not in use as training aids, the controlled substances shall be secured in storage that is only accessible by the canine handler and the program supervisor. At no time shall training aids ever be stored at the K9 handlers residence.

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